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**MARKET DRAYTON  
URBAN DISTRICT**

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**INTERIM REPORT**

on the

**Health and Sanitary  
Circumstances**

for the Year

**1947**



# Market Drayton Urban District Council

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## Public Health Committee, 1947

### Chairman :

Mr. C. D. ALLEN

### Committee :

Mr. C. D. Allen

Mr. G. C. Roberts

Mr. T. Bowen

Mr. W. J. Sambrook

Mr. W. H. Cushing

Mrs. A. Southwell

Mr. P. H. Griffiths

### Officers

### Medical Officer of Health :

W. A. M. STEWART, M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### Sanitary Inspector :

J. G. BAILEY (until 30th November, 1947).

D. C. NICOL, M.I.S.A. (from 1st December, 1947).

### Staff in Public Health Department :

Sanitary Inspector and one Female Clerk

This Report is again presented in an abbreviated form to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. More detailed information, however, has been given in relationship to factories and, in this connection, particulars, under separate cover, have been supplied to the Ministry of Labour.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** Measles has accounted for almost the complete total of such in what has been an epidemic year. Of other diseases a very few were brought to notice and there has been a complete freedom from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

**ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.** Despite the widespread nature of this epidemic no outbreak or case was reported locally. Precautionary measures as safeguard were taken and these may have played their part in the resultant freedom.



## VITAL STATISTICS

**BIRTHS.** The Birth Rate compares very favourably with that of England and Wales while the corresponding Death Rate is equally satisfactory. Again there has been no deaths from maternal causes.

**GENERAL DEATHS.** The General Death Rate shows a rise over previous years and is above the rate for the Country.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** The total on the Register shows a slight continued rise, due solely to the addition of new cases : there have been no withdrawals by reason of death or other causes.

**MISCELLANEOUS.** Each section of the report is dealt with in some detail but the most outstanding matter of the year has been the re-allocation of duties in the Health Department with the addition of a new Sanitary Officer. After settlement of the transitional period advance can be expected.

In presenting this Report the Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking his colleagues for their courtesy and continuous co-operation in the working of the Department and in the compilation of this Report.

### SECTION A

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres) .. .. .	1,390
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population ..	5,549
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to	
Rate Books .. .. .	1,440
Rateable Value .. .. .	£29,544
Sum represented by One Penny Rate .. .. .	£125
Persons per acre (calculated on population (approx.) ..	4

**POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** The Registrar-General's Return for 1947 shows considerable rise. This estimate, always conservative, may be accounted for by the use of the town for residential purposes by persons employed in their various capacities in the surrounding districts.

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.** Social Activities continue to be a pleasing feature of life in the Town, along with other sporting activities of which Cricket, Football, Golf, Bowls, Tennis and Swimming attain a very high standard.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	60	58	118
Illegitimate	..	..	..	3	5	8
Totals				63	63	126
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population				..	22.7	
Ditto (England and Wales)				..	20.5	

STILL BIRTHS				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	2	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals				3	2	5
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				..	38.2	

DEATHS				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Number of Deaths	..			41	41	82
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	..			..	14.8	
Ditto (England and Wales)	..			..	12.0	

### INFANTILE MORTALITY

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	39.7
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (England and Wales)	..			41
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Legitimate Births	..			42.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Illegitimate Births	..			—
Total Number of Infant Deaths :				

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..		4	1
Illegitimate	..	..		—	—

### DEATHS from :

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	7
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	—

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Under this heading there were no deaths.

### CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Tuberculosis (all forms)	..	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—
Maternal Causes	..	..	..	..	—
Cancer	..	..	..	..	7
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	..	13



Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	..	..	31
Respiratory Diseases	..	..	11
Influenza	..	..	1
Nephritis	..	..	3
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	..		4
Diabetes	..	..	—
Abdominal Disease	..	..	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	—
Violence	..	..	1

## SECTION B

### General Provision for Health Services in the Area

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The local service would appear to be little altered under the new Health Act except that the formation of a Sub-Committee has taken place, this will be known as the Drayton Local Ambulance Sub-Committee: this will be under County Authority control.

MORTUARY SERVICE. No change has been made in this service; as a result doctors and police officers have to work under very difficult conditions and it is felt that it is time that the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Health. The premises in question have no water supply or natural light, the door has to be left open during a post-mortem examination. This position leaves a great deal to the imagination.

## SECTION C

### REFUSE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION.

Number of Parishes in district	..	..	One Urban District
Number of Parishes where refuse is collected	..	..	Whole District
Frequency	..	..	Weekly
Methods of collection (direct labour or contract)	..	..	Direct Labour
Mechanised or horse transport	..		Mechanised transport
Methods of disposal (tipping or incineration)	..	..	Tipping
Dustbins	..	..	Yes
Is controlled tipping in operation?	..		Yes

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. A weekly collection of refuse is maintained in the district. The refuse being disposed of by controlled tipping. Some difficulty has been experienced in getting standard type bins; the varied assortment of tins and boxes add to the difficulty of collection.

## SALVAGE

System	..	..	..	Weekly collection
Vehicles	..	..	..	Horse transport
Personnel	..	..	..	One man, full-time
Storage ..	..	..	..	Council yard
Profit or Loss	..	..	..	Loss

COMMENTS. Regular collections are made in the shopping district and from time to time in other parts of the town. The public appear to be less Salvage conscious. Some publicity may be necessary to remind them that salvage is still a very necessary part of our National Economy.

## DISINFESTATION AND CONTROL OF VERMIN. RAT CONTROL

PRIVATE PROPERTIES. A complete inspection has been carried out of all dwelling houses in the Urban District under the Rat Infestation Order. Only a few cases of infestation were found and in these cases agreements signed to have the premises cleared.

COUNCIL UNDERTAKINGS. Disinfestation carried out by Direct Labour.

INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS. County Council are responsible.

Vermin Control	..	..	NIL
Persons	..	..	NIL
Clothes and Bedding	..	..	NIL
Homes	..	..	NIL

COMMENTS. No complaints were received during the year regarding verminous premises. Some inspections were carried out but no infestations were revealed.

## WATER

1. Number and source of water schemes of which the District Council is the Water Undertaker .. ..  
 Number of houses served by (1) (in parishes separately) .. .. . Nil  
 Population served by (1) .. .. . Nil
2. Number and source of water schemes owned by private persons .. .. . 1  
 Number of houses served by (2) .. .. . 1,490  
 Population served by (2) .. .. . 5,175
3. Number of houses served by private wells .. .. . 4  
 Population served by (3) .. .. . 16
4. Number of houses supplied by standpipe (in parishes separately) .. .. . 88



5. Has any water supply in the district been unsatisfactory in quality and/or quantity. If so, give particulars .. No
- 5a. Chlorination .. A system of chlorination is practised
6. Sampling :
 

Supply .. .. .	Main
Number of bacteriological examinations .. .	7
Number of chemical examinations .. .	Nil
Before or after chlorination .. .	After
Satisfactory .. .	7
Unsatisfactory .. .	Nil
7. Extensions or repairs to existing Water Works .. None
8. Extensions or repairs to existing Water Mains .. None
- 8a. New connections to homes, etc.:

Two Private Houses and Council's Housing Estate

9. Difficulties met with during year in relation to works or mains, such as lack of supply, pressure, machinery, breakdowns, etc.:

No difficulties have been met with during the year

10. New Water Works or Water Main Schemes inaugurated or work commenced .. .. .
11. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. The town continues to be supplied by a private Company, and are very fortunate in having an ample supply. The amount consumed during the year was 77 million gallons, this means the consumption per head, per day worked out to about 35 gallons. Samples of water are taken at intervals for bacteriological and chemical examinations.

PUBLIC BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES. Swimming Baths. This continues to serve as an important part of the town's recreation facilities. A considerable amount of maintenance work has to be carried out each year, with the object of securing as satisfactory a water as local conditions will allow.

## GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH DURING YEAR

1. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance (excluding structural matters) .. .. . 27
2. New closets or drains provided or old mended .. 15
3. Offensive accumulations .. . 1
4. Animals in such a state as to be a nuisance .. . Nil
5. Smoke nuisance .. . 1
6. Nuisances arising from water courses, ditches, etc. .. Nil
7. Offensive cases .. . Nil
8. Common Lodging Houses .. . Nil



9. Public Conveniences. Accommodation is provided in the Town, 2 Conveniences for Males and 1 for Females. These establishments are under constant supervision and are well maintained.

SHOP ACTS, 1912-1934

Number of premises inspected . . . . . 136  
 Action taken with respect to any defects found : In 2 cases notice was given regarding defective Sanitary Conveniences.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT. There are 2 picture houses in the Town. Periodical inspections are paid to these places and all matters which require attention are brought to the notice of the management.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. There are 3 schools in the Town. Pupils attending school :

Market Drayton Grammar School	.. .. .	300
Market Drayton Senior School	.. . . .	338
Market Drayton Junior School	.. .. .	350
		<hr/>
		988
		<hr/>

Much can be done to improve the sanitary conditions in the Junior School in as far as drinking, washing and sanitary arrangements are concerned. This matter at the moment is under consideration by the Education Authorities.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- Number of Sewage Works owned by District Council (parishes) . . . . . 1  
 Number of houses dealt with by public sewers .. 1,322
- Number of private sewage disposal works .. Nil  
 Number of houses dealt with by these .. Nil
- Number of houses with privies or pail closets .. 171
- Extensions or repairs to existing sewage works or sewers :  
 Plans for extension have been prepared
- New Schemes for works or sewers inaugurated during the year .. Nil
- Difficulties, if any, encountered in operating works or sewers .. Nil

## SECTION D

### Housing

#### NEW COUNCIL HOUSES—PERMANENT HOUSES

Total number of houses in schemes sanctioned by the  
Ministry of Health :

(a) Traditional .. .. .	88
(b) Prefabricated .. .. .	Nil
Total number of houses for which sites are prepared in 1947 .. .. .	122
Total number of houses completed .. .. .	36
Number of houses completed in 1947 .. .. .	24
Number of houses in progress .. .. .	52
New schemes inaugurated .. .. .	12

#### TEMPORARY HOUSES

Total number of houses in schemes sanctioned by Ministry of Health .. .. .	10
Total number of houses for which sites are prepared ..	10
Sites prepared in 1947 .. .. .	Nil
Total number of houses completed .. .. .	10
Number of houses completed in 1947 .. .. .	Nil

#### NEW PRIVATE HOUSES

Number of plans for new houses submitted .. .. .	2
Number of plans for new houses passed and licensed ..	2
Number of new houses completed .. .. .	Nil
Number of new houses in progress .. .. .	2

#### EXISTING HOUSES

Clearance Areas and Industrial unfit houses : 83 houses unfit

OVERCROWDING. Approximately 200 houses are required to replace these which should be demolished and to relieve overcrowding.

#### HOUSING REPAIRS

Number of houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts .. .. .	27
Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	27
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit by informal action .. .. .	3

#### COUNCIL HOUSES

Repairs and General Management :

Slow in completion due to lack of material, etc.

Army hutments occupied by squatters and under supervision by District Council .. .. . Nil

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS .. .. . Nil



GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. Housing progress in the Town is well above the average, some 24 houses being completed in 1947. A great deal more has still to be done to meet the housing needs of this community, the time is drawing near when a complete Housing Survey of the district will have to be carried out, so that a true picture of housing records can be established.

## SECTION E

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The District continues to be served from the central abattoir at Whitchurch, and such meat is subject to re-examination, locally, as is required.

### FOOD PREMISES

Number of premises where food is sold, prepared or stored .. .. .	136
Number of inspections of above .. .. .	136
Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. and D. Act, 1938) .. .. .	
Number of premises registered under Section 14 (F. and D. Act, 1938) :	
(a) Manufacture of meat products .. .. .	6
(b) Ice-Cream manufacturers .. .. .	3
Number of inspections of above .. .. .	24
Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. and D. Act, 1938) .. .. .	Nil
1. Number of Slaughter Houses in district .. .. .	8
2. Number of persons licensed to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards .. .. .	8
3. Action taken with regard to inspections of slaughter houses, shops, stalls, and vehicles, and places where food is prepared .. .. .	Nil

4. REMARKS. The district continues to be served from the central Abattoir at Whitchurch and the meat received in the Town is subject to re-inspection from time to time. Some consideration should be given to the establishment of an abattoir in the Town so as to be ready to serve the needs of the community as soon as conditions in the meat trade improve, this might be explored in conjunction with our colleagues in the Rural District. The day has arrived when it is essential to see that all meat slaughtered for the food of man should receive a hundred per cent inspection under suitable and sanitary conditions.



ICE-CREAM. There are 2 firms manufacturing ice-cream in the Town, and several more are retailing the pre-packed ice-cream. The new (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, are a step in the right direction giving the Local Authority more control over the manufacture and storage of this commodity. We live in hopes that in the near future something will be done to convince the powers-that-be, that standards are required for this article of food.

## OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

### TINNED FOODS CONDEMNED

				<i>Weight</i>		<i>No. of</i>
				<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>	<i>Tins</i>
Meat	..	..	..	25	11½	20
Fish	..	..	..	20	5	27
Fruit	..	..	..	20	12	18
Vegetables	..	..	..	32	9	34
Milk	..	..	..	38	5	63
Miscellaneous						
Syrup	..	..	..	1	—	1
Soup	..	..	..	6	—	6
Jam	..	..	..	37	—	18

### FRESH AND DRIED FOODS CONDEMNED

Fish	..	..	..	—	—	—
Fruit : Dates	..	..	..	6	8	13 pkts.
Vegetables	..	..	..	—	—	—

### Miscellaneous

Hind quarters of					
English beef	..		49	—	
Two sides of Bacon	..		28	—	
Packet Dried Egg	..		—	10	
Sugar	..	..	—	8	
Corn Flour	..	..	—	8	
Corn Flakes	..	..	—	5	
Margarine	..	..	—	8	
Butter	..	..	—	8	
Custard Powder	..		—	8	
Jelly Crystals	..	..	—	5	

### MILK

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register	..	6
Number of premises : cowsheds	..	6
dairies	..	1 Creamery
milkshops	..	Nil
Number of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 in respect of :		
	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited
(a) establishments of producers		Pasteurised
and bottlers	..	—

(b) establishments of producers only .. .. .	—	2	—
(c) establishments of bottlers only .. .. .	1	—	—
(d) shops and other premises not being the establishment at which the milk is produced or bottled .. .. .	1	—	—
(e) supplementary licences to sell milk from shops or other establishment outside the area of the licensing authority .. .. .	2	—	—
Number of inspections .. .. .			18
Action taken with regard to defects found :			

Repairs have been carried out at one cowshed as follows :  
divisions between byres, reconstruction of floor with new channels, etc.

COMMENTS. One of the principal duties of the Health Department is the supervision of the milk supply. The day is long past when it was simply a matter of taking a few samples. Fortunately the bad old days are past, and gone with them are the cows with the iron tails.

## SECTION F

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937. Part I

Inspections	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	No. of occupiers prosec'ted
(1) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 Sections are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	55	20	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	—	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	55	20	—	—

PART 8 OF THE ACT. Outwork Sections 110 and 111

COMMENTS. There are some 55 factories in the Town which are inspected from time to time. No Notices have been served during the year.

SECTION G

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Allied Diseases

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, together with the number of deaths :

<i>Disease</i>			<i>Cases notified</i>		<i>Deaths</i>
			1946	1947	
Scarlet Fever	..	..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	33	5	—
Acute Poliomyelitis		..	—	—	—
Measles	..	..	1	123	—
Diphtheria	..	..	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	—	—	—
Dysentery	..	..	—	2	—
Enteric Fever	..	..	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever		..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia		..	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..		—	1	—
Erysipelas	..	..	—	1	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

<i>Years</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Measles</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0 .. ..	1	—	2	1
1 .. .	—	1	9	10
3 .. ..	1	—	18	13
5 .. ..	2	—	28	38
10 .. ..	—	—	—	3
15 .. ..	—	—	—	1
25 .. ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	4	5	57	66

<i>Years</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>		<i>Erysipelas</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0 .. ..	—	—	—	—
5 .. .	—	—	—	—
15 .. .	1	1	—	1
45 .. .	—	—	—	—
65 .. ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	1	1	—	1



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. No change has been made in the dual administration of this scheme. The results show a favourable comparison with those of neighbouring authorities, but the aim should be complete protection for all the involved child population.

	Age under 5 years but over 1 year	5 years and over but under 15 years	Total
Number of children immunised	238	715	953
Estimated child population ..	510	800	1,310
Approximate percentage ..	46.6	89.35	72.74

TUBERCULOSIS. The number of notified cases, on the Register at December 31st, 1947, and the comparative numbers for 1945 and 1946 are as follows :

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary Drayton Urban	Non-Pulmonary England & Wales	
1945 ..	13	15	7	7	47
1946 ..	13	15	9	7	44
1947 ..	17	15	9	7	48

#### NEW CASES

Pulmonary, 4      Non-Pulmonary, 0      Total, 4

#### DEATH RATES

Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis  
per 1,000 population .. .. . — .47

Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuber-  
culosis per 1,000 population .. .. . — .079

Total Death Rate (all forms) .. .. . — .549

There were no deaths from Pulmonary and none from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

# NEW CASES AND MORTALITY TABLE, 1947

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0- 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CANCER. The number of deaths from Cancer in 1947 was 4 males and 3 females. Total, 7.

M. Drayton Urban

England & Wales

Death Rate per 1,000,000 living ..

1261

1853

W. A. M. STEWART,

4th July, 1948

Medical Officer of Health.









